



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 11, 2015

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

IT STARTS WITH SELF

I am well aware that putting self first does not seem like a Christ-like thing to do, but, for now, that's where we need to start. My relationship with God has to start with my willingness to meet Him, to see Him, to recognize who He is. He is there waiting, but I stand at a distance and wonder what this all means.

It has to start with my humbly admitting that I am not the center of the universe. He is. I have to understand that, without Him, I am lost in a sea of aimless humanity.

It has to start with my realization that putting others before me sounds, right and noble, but if God is not honored by my actions and if He is not the highest priority, then I have accomplished little that will last beyond my life.

It has to start with my willingness to be obedient to Him, even when I may not understand all there is to understand, if His Word gives me a directive, as a follower I must obey that directive. While many may not agree and while the political correctness of the day may shut me out and count me as irrelevant, I must comply with His written will.

It has to start with me knowing the sin that separates me from God. God did not want me to sin. He does not excuse or condone my sin. But He can take it away. He is the giver of forgiveness. He is the purifier of my soul. I have no way to do that on my own. I am totally dependent on Him to take down that barrier and allow me into His holy presence.

It has to start with me. My decisions. My choices. My willingness to do what My Maker directs. My spiritual strength is not going to be decided by anyone else and my eternity is much too important to leave in the hands of someone who doesn't care about eternity.

It starts with me. It starts today.

Pat Peters

RISE AND SHINE

I was conscience enough at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday to hear my dad step inside our doorway and turn on the light. My dad would say, "Rise and shine, my sons!" We got up to our daily chores of cooking breakfast, making coffee, fixing mom and dad's lunch pails and their thermoses, and sitting at the table half asleep to eat breakfast together. Then at 6:30 they left to drive to their jobs at Beech Aircraft in Wichita. I never once thought about how they liked the early morning and the daily commute.

My parents worked hard, to provide the best life they could for our whole family. They were the typical American employees who took pride in their work, believing they were making life and America better. I will never forget that! Through all the years of back and forth to Wichita to work, my parents never complained about their employer, nor about their pay. They believed Mr. and Mrs. Beech took care of them. Company, family and friends brought complete satisfaction to them and their co-workers.

I look at America today and see a completely different picture of the American family. The legacy of hard work that my parents left my siblings and me has been replaced with the ungrateful employees who complain more than they work. They are completely dissatisfied with their jobs, their pay, and everyone else. Pride in a job well done is long gone, and has been replaced with a "you owe me more" attitude. Many children grow up with more than one set of parents. Love is not based on the commitment; it is all about feelings; which really isn't love after all. What has happened?

The devil has destroyed our culture with his onslaught of the family, and America's work ethics. Our president said on the news one night, "Nothing can defeat America." America is blind to the fact that we are already defeated. Peter was right when he wrote: *"Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy prowls around, like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* As America turned away from God, God allowed America to fall in love with itself, and become a slave to its worst enemy. America's only hope is to repent and turn back to God! It begins with each family. It's time to rise and shine!

Larry Scarth